



"Saving Lives in Tennessee"

Advisory Council Meeting
Gymnasium, Trevecca Community Church
335 Murfreesboro Pike
Wednesday, September 11, 2013
1:00 - 2:30 PM

Advisory Council Members Present

Jennifer Harris, MS, St. Thomas Hickman Hospital (Advisory Council Chair / Chair, Hickman County Suicide Prevention Task Force)
Karyl Chastain Beal, M.Ed., Retired/Community Advocate (Advisory Council Co- Chair / South Central Regional Chair / Outreach Committee Chair)
Tim Tatum, MA, LPC-MHSP, Director of Behavioral Health, Pine Ridge Treatment Center (Advisory Council Secretary / Southeast Regional Chair)
Sabrina Anderson, Boys and Girls Clubs of Jackson-Madison County
Nancy L. Badger, Ph.D., Director, Counseling Center, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Jodi Bartlett, Ed.S, LPC-MHSP, MCRT Director, Northern Region, Volunteer Behavioral Health (Upper Cumberland Regional Chair)
Kathy Benedetto, LPC, SPE, LMFT, Senior Vice-President, Tennessee Child and Youth Services, Frontier Health
Vickie Bilbrey, Community Education Manager, Oak Point Center, Livingston Regional Hospital
Renee Brown, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Memphis VA Medical Center (Memphis/Shelby County Regional Chair)
Anne Henning-Rowan, MS, Community Advocate (Rural West Regional Chair)
Emily Hill, Community Education Director, Behavioral Healthcare Center at Columbia
Mike LaBonte, Executive Director, Memphis Crisis Center
Claudia M. Mays, LCSW, BCD, CM Counseling & Consulting Service
Rita McNabb, Coordinated School Health Director, Cocke County Schools
Linda Phipps Harold, Community Advocate
Waring Porter, Pastor, All Saints Presbyterian Church
Stephenie Robb, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Initiatives, Inc.
Kim Rush, Ed.S., LPC-MHSP, Vice-President of Operations, Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System (Chair, Rutherford County Suicide Prevention Coalition)
Anna Shugart, LCSW, Director, Emotional Health & Recovery Center, Blount Memorial Hospital (Chair, Blount County Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Alliance)
Sandy Smith, Community Advocate
Anne Stamps, Center Director, Cumberland Mountain Mental Health Center / Dale Hollow Mental Health Center
Angie Thompson, Director of Behavioral Health (Chair, Davidson County Suicide Prevention Task Force)
Anne Young, MS, CAS, Program Director, Young Adult and Residential Relapse Recovery Program, Cornerstone of Recovery (East Tennessee Regional Chair)

Intra-State Departmental Group Members Present

Dustin Keller, LPC-MHSP, Director, Council on Children's Mental Health, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (Intra-State Departmental Group Chair)
John Allen, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration
Sumita Banerjee, Customer Services Administrator, Tennessee Department of Human Services
Teresa Kimbro Culbreath, Litter Grant Program, Statewide Coordinator, Highway Beautification Office

Tennessee Department of Transportation
Gwen Hamer, MA, Director, Education and Development, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Melissa Sparks, MSN, RN, Director, Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention, Division of Mental Health Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Jacqueline Talley, Treatment Specialist, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Advisory Council Members Absent

Pam Arnell, MA, Arnell's Counseling Service (Advisory Council Co-Secretary / Chair, Giles County Suicide Prevention Task Force)
Stephanie Barger, M.Div., Vice-President of Strategy and Operations, Monroe Harding (Mid-Cumberland Regional Chair)
Lisa Daniel, Chief Executive Officer, Memphis Mental Health Institute
Cindy Johnson, Regional Director of Marketing, Tennessee Health Management (Chair, Montgomery-Houston-Humphreys-Stewart County Suicide Prevention Task Force)
Harold Leonard, MA, LPC-MHSP, Cognitive Behavioral Specialists of the Tri-Cities (Northeast Regional Chair)
Tina R. Mitchell, GCDF, Executive Director, CrossBridge, Inc./Compassionate Ministries Pastor, Trevecca Community Church
Micky Roberts, Health Director, Blount County Health Department
Kandi Shearer, Program Supervisor, Youth Villages Specialized Crisis Services
Shelia R. Ward, West Tennessee Business College

Intra-State Departmental Group Members Absent

Jackie Berg, Training Specialist and Worker's Compensation Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Wendell Cheek, Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs
Deborah Hardin, BS, RN, State Public Health Nursing Director, Tennessee Department of Health
Rachel Heitmann, MS, Director, Injury Prevention and Detection, Division of Family Health and Wellness, Tennessee Department of Health
Yvette Mack, PhD, MSPH, MCHES, Director, Asthma Management and Adolescent & Young Adult Health Initiatives, Tennessee Department of Health
Lori Paisley, Director of Special Projects, Tennessee Department of Education
Sara Smith, MS, State Coordinator, Office of Coordinated School Health, Tennessee Department of Education
Lucy E. Utt, Supervisor, Community Services, Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability
Sharon Wolfenbarger, Mental Health Program Manager, Tennessee Department of Correction

TSPN Advisory Council Emeritus Group Members

Sam Bernard, Ph.D., the PAR Foundation
Clark Flatt, President/CEO, the Jason Foundation, Inc.
Ken Tullis, MD, Lakeside Behavioral Health System
Madge Tullis, Community Activist

TSPN/TLC Staff Present

Granger Brown, MSW, LMSW, Substance Abuse Outreach Coordinator
Vladimir Enlow, MTS, TSPN Executive Assistant
Scott Ridgway, MS, TSPN Executive Director

Guests

Theresa Boyd, Volunteer Behavioral Health
Neru Gobin, Office of Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention, Division of Mental Health Services, Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Sylvia Hall, Parents of Suicides/Friends and Families of Suicides
Tricia Henderson, Counseling Center, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga
Lena Higgins, Volunteer Behavioral Health
Abilash Philpose, Office of Injury Prevention and Detection, Division of Family Health and Wellness,
Tennessee Department of Health
Cathy Rau, Parents of Suicides/Friends and Families of Suicides
Tom Starling, President/CEO, Mental Health America of Middle Tennessee
Kay Witherspoon, Memphis VA Medical Center

Welcome

- Harris called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.
- Introductions were skipped in the interest of time, although meeting guests were acknowledged.

Review of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

- Following members' perusal of the June meeting minutes, Anderson motioned to accept the minutes as submitted. Tatum seconded and the motion passed without objection.

Regional Reports

- In the interest in time, Harris asked each member presenting a report to keep their remarks down to a single project or accomplishment.

Northeast Region

- Phipps Harold presented on behalf of regional chair Leonard, who could not attend due to a scheduling conflict.
- The annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk will take place at Warrior's Path State Park at 2 PM on September 29. This year's event will include several musical performances.
 - A large crowd is anticipated and several in-kind donations have been confirmed.
- Also this month, Phipps Harold is scheduled to present a lecture on suicide prevention at a church in Elizabethton.
- On August 30, she was interviewed about the walk by WJHL in advance of that station's coverage of the event. She was also interviewed by the Kingsport Times-News on September 18 for an article on the walk which ran in the September 25 edition.

East Tennessee Region

- Young observed that collaboration with other agencies remains the dominating factor in regional outreach, noting several major developments in the last year related to member and ally recruitment.
- The region targeted three counties with escalating suicide rates—Claiborne, Grainger, and Union—and arranged for presentations to each counties Health Council as well as a local training session. Young recognized G. Brown's efforts in facilitating these sessions.
- The regional meetings have shifted to Cherokee Mental Health due to an increase in meeting attendance.
 - Several weeks previously, the Tennessee Valley Homeless Coalition hosted the "Calm in Crisis" seminar. The event, which had 215 people in attendance, included presentations by Shugart, Young, and Lori Ramsey.
- The "Preventing Tragedy, Providing Hope" seminar in Knoxville is later this month; reservations filled up in seven days. Flatt is the keynote speaker at this event, which TSPN is co-sponsoring along with TCSW, the K-Town Empowerment Network, Cornerstone of Recovery, and NASW (which is providing the CEUs for participants).
- Young closed by referencing the regional Network's highly successful exhibit at last month's Tennessee Smokies home game.

Upper Cumberland Region

- Bartlett announced that roughly 200 people attended the “Light of Hope” event held in Cookeville on August 27.
- Additionally, regional members distributed all 300 packets of materials they prepared for the Fun Fest held in Cookeville last weekend.
- At both events, the handheld fans—an idea contributed by Stamps, and ordered at a very reasonable price—were the most popular item.
- The region has confirmed an exhibit at the “Bully-Free in Tennessee” conference at TTU on October 19.
- Regional members continue to lead QPR sessions for community agencies, including a recent session for law enforcement officers and one for Smith County Schools.
- Bartlett, Stamps, Wilson, and Christina Mick of TTU attended a presentation for 60 Putnam County School staff on the evening of September 9. The event was staged by the Daniel Seal Suicide Prevention Foundation. As at previous events, the handheld fans were a big hit with attendees.

Southeast Region

- Tatum reports having provided resources and consultation to several local mental health centers since the last business meeting. Members still facilitate QPR training sessions for community agencies on a regular basis.
- The region continues to prepare for its “Saving Lives in Southeast Tennessee” conference, set for October 3 in Chattanooga.

Mid-Cumberland Region

- Reporting on behalf of absent regional chair Barger, Mays observed that the Middle Tennessee Suicide Prevention Awareness Month event, held September 5 in Nashville’s Centennial Park, was very well-attended and received very positive feedback from guests.

South Central Region

- Chastain Beal relayed a report from Arnell that upwards of 150 people are registered so far for the Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk planned for October 5 in Pulaski.
- As per the request of Harris, Chastain Beal also reminded Council members of the awareness walk planned by the Hickman-Perry County Suicide Prevention Task Force on September 28.
 - This event will begin at 3 PM at the Jerry Dixon Walking Trail in Centerville. It will include a program (during which Peery will be honored as this year’s Madge and Ken Tullis, MD, Suicide Prevention Award winner), a balloon release, and a potluck dinner.

Rural West Region

- Henning-Rowan referenced recent partnerships with Lane Collage and West Tennessee Business College. The latter is holding a suicide prevention awareness event today, and Lane will hold one sometime by the end of the semester.
- Regional members continue to promote and prepare for “Saving Lives in Rural West Tennessee” is scheduled for September 20 at UT-Martin, as well as the “School Community Crisis Response” event at Union University of October 25.

Memphis/Shelby County Region

- As R. Brown had to leave early and no other regional Council members were present, Ridgway presented an update on regional projects.
- Approximately 210 people have signed up for “School Community Crisis Response” next week at Hope Presbyterian Church. The event will begin at 9 AM on September 17 with a continental breakfast available beforehand.

- Ridgway acknowledged the sponsors for this event: Delta Medical Center, Lakeside Behavioral Health System, Parkwood Behavioral Health System, and Hope Presbyterian.

Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee

- Committee chair Tatum thanked all those who had helped secure the local Suicide Prevention Awareness Month proclamations.
- Ridgway added that three regions have already confirmed representation of every component county.

Strategies/Outcomes/Evaluations Committee

- Harris and Young had Council members review the evaluation piece for the revised Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention, as approved by the Committee at the last meeting in June.
- Some minor edits were made to the document following review by Jason Padgett of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and Dr. Gayle Jaffe, TSPN's liaison with the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.
- Harris has reviewed the document and offered her comments. She explained that the evaluation piece articulates quantifiable objectives for the Strategies.
- The document was in need of formal ratification by the Advisory Council. **The Committee's approval counted as a motion for approval of the revised evaluation piece of the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention. The motion was seconded by Bilbrey and passed without objection.**
- Ridgway explained that the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) receives a federal block grant to subsidize TSPN and other programs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), administrator of this grant, had asked state-supported suicide prevention programs about plans for scouting alternative funding sources, as well as an evaluation piece for their current suicide prevention strategies. While the Council had discussed such a plan previously, TSPN needed the document ratified in order to report back to SAMHSA that this was done.
- The evaluation piece was intended primarily as an internal document for review over the course of the fiscal year. It does not supersede the contract already on file with TDMHSAS.
- Members who spot small items in the evaluation piece regarding correction should contact the central office following today's meeting.
- The evaluation piece will be uploaded to the TSPN website.

Outreach Committee

- Committee chair Chastain Beal applauded the TSPN staff and volunteers who helped plan today's Suicide Prevention Awareness Day event, and those who assisted with set-up.
- Three panels have been received for the next "Love Never Dies" Memorial Quilt with another one forthcoming. These will be added to panels received later to create a tenth quilt which will presumably debut at the 2014 Suicide Prevention Awareness Day event.
- The *Out of the Shadows* newsletter recently published its second issue, following an overwhelmingly positive response from readers.
 - Ridgway noted that the second edition was already prepared by the time Chastain Beal asked about it. Most of the material is borrowed from other survivor newsletters or contributed by readers, so this newsletter essentially writes itself.
 - Bartlett provided copies of the first edition to Volunteer Behavioral Health's Crisis Stabilization Unit. One of their clients read the newsletter and submitted a letter to the editor which was published on the front page of the second edition.
 - During an Executive Committee conference call held Monday morning, members suggested capitalizing on the success of *Out of the Shadows* by creating a newsletter for survivors of

- suicide attempts. It could be published every other month, alternating with *Out of the Shadows*. Ideally, this newsletter would also be powered by user submissions.
- Members of the Committee were initially wary of putting undue strain on TSPN and on Enlow, who is responsible for publishing both *Out of the Shadows* and the *TSPN Call to Action*. But Enlow confirmed that if enough submissions are forthcoming, this newsletter should be easy to create and perpetuate.
 - The Executive Committee presented the idea at today's meeting to assess the Council's support for the idea.
 - No name has been suggested for the proposed newsletter.
- Phipps Harold had noted the relative scarcity of attempters' support groups relative to those for survivors. She asked if it was a good idea for attempters to attend survivor support groups in lieu of a group expressly for attempters.
 - Chastain Beal explained that from past experience, it is inadvisable for an attempt survivor to show up unannounced at one of these sessions and announce his/her status—some members of the group may not be able to handle it. K. Tullis backed Chastain Beal up on this point.
 - She recalled incidents where attempt survivors showed up unannounced at survivor support group meetings seeking help to prevent further attempts—the last thing the legitimate participants in the group needed.
 - M. Tullis commented that she and K. Tullis had been asked to attend support group meetings and speak about their experiences, but sharing their story was always awkward since it had a fortunate outcome.
 - K. Tullis reflected on his work with SPAN-USA, noting that some survivors were actually resentful of his status as an attempt survivor and his inclusion in survivor activities. While survivors who are in advanced stages of healing may be able to accept having an attempt survivor at one of their meetings, the tactic may backfire with people who have suffered a recent loss. M. Tullis adds that the trust level between the group members and the visitor is the key factor here.
 - K. Tullis noted the availability of the Suicide Anonymous model. Harris acknowledged that the proposed newsletter is not supposed to replace a support group, but can provide resources to the attempt survivor community, especially in areas where no Suicide Anonymous group is active.
 - K. Tullis also pointed out that Suicide Anonymous frequently hosts meetings accessible via Skype. Interested parties can log in to the meetings and listen from anywhere in the world. More information about these meetings is available on the Suicide Anonymous website (suicideanonymous.net). Harris suggested that this should be a routine announcement for the newsletter.
 - Thompson recommended that given the sensitive nature of the subject and the audience, each edition of the newsletter be reviewed prior to publication for the appropriateness of the content. Phipps Harold agreed with this suggestion. Harris reported that this protocol is already in place with *Out of the Shadows* and will be observed for the new newsletter.
 - Harris asked for volunteers to review newsletter content ahead of publication. Bernard, Smith, and Tatum volunteered for this task, with K. Tullis to serve as a consultant as needed.
 - **The Committee's approval counted as a motion for approval of the creation of a newsletter for survivors of suicide attempts. The motion was seconded by Phipps Harold and passed without objection.**

Intra-State Departmental Group

- Keller reported on TSPN's partnerships with state departments to promote the cause of suicide prevention. These included training sessions for employees, distribution of materials, exhibits with state buildings, and the devotion of the entire September edition of the EAP newsletter to the subject.
- Keller reminded Group members of the next meeting, set for November 6.
- He closed by announcing his wedding to Banerjee, scheduled for October 5.

- Ridgway thanked Keller for his leadership for the group, which had contributed to its growth and development.
- He acknowledged the recent addition of Culbreath to the group, as well as to representatives from the divisions of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice within the Tennessee Department of Children's Services. One of these is Monica Middlebrooks, who previously served on the Advisory Council representing the Southeast Region.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

- Ridgway directed guests to the call volume reports included in the packets. He mentioned that certain call centers have seen major increases in calls during the last three months.
- The newly connected call center at Family and Children's Services in Nashville backs up Centerstone. It accepts calls within counties included in TSPN's Mid-Cumberland and East Tennessee Regions.
- The Helen Ross McNabb Center has not yet started accepting calls, but will do so in the near future.
- The long black bar under the Peninsula column marks the point at which it stopped receiving NSPL calls.

Tennessee Lives Count (TLC) Project

- Starling provided this report as no TLC staff members were able to attend today's meeting.
 - Thorpe was unable to attend today's meeting, as she is assisting with an ongoing postvention operation at Forrest School in Chapel Hill.
 - Michele Daniel, the former TLC Project Coordinator, is no longer with the project or MHAMT. Thorpe, who has served as the Interim Project Coordinator, will officially move into this position on September 16.
- Starling recognized Harris, who continues to serve on the MHAMT board on an ex officio basis.
- MHAMT is currently soliciting applications for a new TLC Trainer/Postvention Specialist (Thorpe's old position), and the agency is already reviewing several prospective candidates.
 - Starling noted that any prospective applicants should note that the position involves a fair amount of traveling associated with trainings and postventions.
- Starling announced that Keith Richardson has been hired as the new TLC Administrative Assistant on a part-time basis. He replaces Tiffany Orth, who has left to pursue opportunities elsewhere.
- TLC is still seeking colleges and universities to participate in the Tennessee Higher Education Suicide Prevention Network (THESPN). TLC is hoping to recruit 50 college/university staff (preferably tenured) to serve as QPR instructors who will conduct sessions for students, faculty, and community members. Any leads that Advisory Council members and others turn up should be submitted to Thorpe.

Specialty License Plate

- Ridgway circulated the 40 entries received from Tennessee high school students as part of the design contest. He admitted that many of the entries seemed more suitable for a poster, and that very few of the contestants followed the directions or the license plate template provided.
 - All participants will, however, receive certificates acknowledging their participation in the contest.
- Keller wondered if the contest should be opened back up, with more emphasis placed on the instructions—specifically, that the design should work around the static elements of the plate and focus on the available white space.
- Ridgway noted that he had hoped to announce the winner and have them recognized at today's ceremony.
- As an aside, Ridgway mentioned that 10 people have reserved plates using the Eventbrite system, which is being used to field reservations.

- Starling recommended taking the best two or three of the designs and combining them into a single design. Shugart and Young voiced support for this idea.
- Harris recommended setting up an ad hoc committee to review the entries and pick the ones to be used in the composite. Anderson and Smith volunteered to serve on said committee.
- Thompson recommended consulting the contestants with the selected designs and getting their permission before modifying their designs. Culbreath added that the “winners” could divide up the proposed prize money—for example, the two entries selected for the composite could split the combined total of the first and second prizes.
- Ridgway cautioned that TSPN has only a year to select a design and to gather the requisite 1,000 signatures to justify the plate’s production.
- Hamer and Ridgway recommended taking the top three designs and submitting them to the ad hoc committee with the necessary specs.
- Bernard offered to have a graphic artist (a professional contact) assist with integrating the selected designs.
- The final roster for the ad hoc committee is as follows: Anderson, Bernard, Keller, and Smith. They were asked to stay for about five minutes following adjournment of today’s meeting to weed out the obviously unacceptable entries. They could discuss the matter further via conference call as needed—Chastain Beal could provide a conference call line and number.

TSPN App

- Ridgway announced that the TSPN App was now available for free download on iTunes, under the name “Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network”.
- This smartphone application gives users immediate information about common warning signs and recommendations for how to approach someone who is suicidal or severely depressed, as well as instructions on how to contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or other crisis intervention services.
- The app also provides users with basic information about suicide and mental illness, both for the general population and high-risk populations like teens and veterans.
- It also includes information about community mental health and social services resources, and basic information about TSPN and its work across the state of Tennessee.
- The TSPN App is compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. It requires iOS 5.0 or later and is optimized for iPhone 5.
- TSPN is indebted to Mental Health America of Texas for their logistical expertise regarding the conceptualization and planning of this project.

Psychological Autopsy Course

- Ridgway provided guests with information about the proposed psychological autopsy course scheduled for March 25-26.
- This course is not a TSPN function or program; the Network is merely co-sponsoring the training, which is being hosted by the American Association of Suicidology (AAS).
- The Network has already obtained an MOU from MHAMT, signed by Starling, regarding this project.
- As part of its co-host arrangement, TSPN may send 12 members to participate in the session. The registration fee of \$800 covers guests' participation in both days of the course.
- Those who participate in the program will be authorized to conduct psychological autopsies under the supervision of AAS. They must complete two psychological autopsies before being formally certified in the program.
- The investigators will not be acting on behalf of the Network; they will represent themselves and AAS.
- Tatum noted that the Executive Committee had already approved TSPN’s co-hosting of this session.

- Ridgway recalled that TSPN had previously been offered the opportunity to co-host such a program. Ultimately the offer was not approved, and the course was held in Atlanta instead. He believes that psychological autopsy services are needed in Tennessee, and if TSPN again declines, AAS will move the certification course to another state.
- **The Executive Committee's approval counted as a motion for approval of TSPN's co-hosting of the psychological autopsy course offered by AAS. The motion was seconded by Anderson and passed without objection.**
- Bernard noted that he was currently under contract to provide psychological autopsy services to the Marine Corps. His experience with the program leads him to recommend that the course be undertaken primarily by clinicians, in consideration of the in-depth nature of the course. He does not recommend the course for fairly recent survivors because of the intense nature of the coursework.
- Phipps Harold noted the importance of having a trained and seasoned professional coordinate the autopsy process, having commissioned one following the death of her son. The details from just the physical autopsy can be traumatic enough... the information obtained from a psychological autopsy, even more so. The would-be investigator needs to be prepared for the complex interplay of emotions from different people that will necessarily be in play during the process.
- Harris pointed out that despite these points, the course is theoretically open to anyone who fulfills the preliminary qualifications.

Emeritus Group Nomination

- Ridgway noted that Mays was set to rotate off the Council and had officially retired from her counseling job. As such, Ridgway recommended that she be shifted to the Emeritus Group, in recognition of her years of service to TSPN.
- **Chastain Beal motioned for the assignment of Claudia Mays to TSPN's Emeritus Association. Tatum seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.**

Executive Director's Report

- Ridgway had been notified by his contact within the Office of Boards of Commissions that about half of the Council members' terms expire on October 1. Members may consult the Advisory Council roster on the TSPN website and the front tables after the meeting.
 - Members with expiring terms should expect a call or e-mail from Boards and Commissions to confirm their intent to serve if recommended for a second term.
 - Ridgway has recommended most Council members active in TSPN projects and meetings for reappointment.
 - He advised any Council members who had not yet signed and submitted the Roles and Structures document to stay after the meeting and sign off on one of the copies available at the front table.
- In other news, Ridgway noted that this year's Suicide Prevention Awareness Month observance was particularly busy, with more people attending events than in the last three years combined. Ridgway believes this is due to the caliber of trainings and conferences offered as part of this year's observance.
 - He noted that over 300 people are set to attend the "Preventing Tragedy, Promoting Hope" seminar in Knoxville on September 25—more than double the number originally expected. Also, over 200 people have signed up for the "School Community Crisis Response" seminar planned for Cordova on September 17.
 - A full listing of projects and observances across the state is available in the current edition of the *TSPN Call to Action*.
 - Ridgway shared that the Light of Hope event in Cookeville on August 27 had been particularly moving thanks to the musical performance of two girls in state custody. The Algood High School choir's performance had been particularly good considering it was their first public function of the school year and they only had three weeks to rehearse.

- Ridgway encouraged anyone who takes photos at a Suicide Prevention Awareness Month event to submit these to the central office; they may be included in the roundup published in the October newsletter.
- Ridgway spoke about the Wellness Walk at Fort Campbell held on September 7, attended by roughly 500 people. Ridgway provided a lengthy interview for a local radio station during the event.
- An editorial from Ridgway articulating TSPN's "zero suicides" agenda was published in the August 30 edition of the Tennessean and has since been picked up by small local papers.
- Ridgway also credited the license plate design contest for raising the profile of the observance.
- He mentioned a recent e-mail from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, noting his recent nomination as a White House Champion for Change. This program recognizes public officials and volunteers involved in the public health and prevention fields.

Adjournment

- With no other business to address, Harris announced that the next Advisory Council meeting had been confirmed for Wednesday, February 12, within the Community Room at the Metro Nashville Police Department's Hermitage Precinct.
- Following unanimous passage of a motion to adjourn, the Council did so at 2:32 PM.